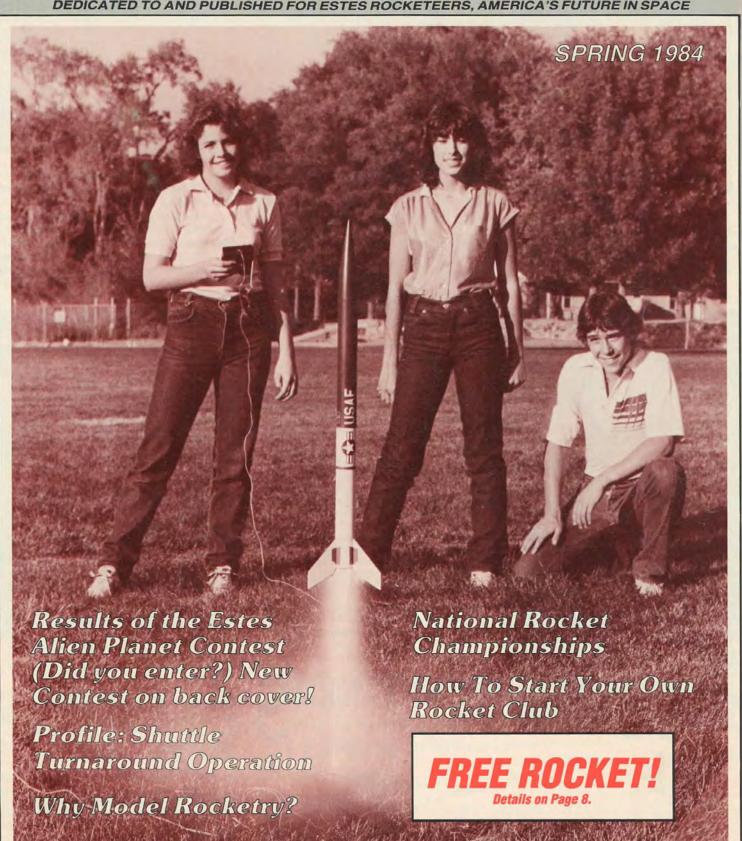
# ODEL ROCKET NEWS

DEDICATED TO AND PUBLISHED FOR ESTES ROCKETEERS, AMERICA'S FUTURE IN SPACE





**PROFILE:** 

SHUTTLE TURNAROUND OPERATION

BY GARY PORTER

As the Space Shuttle Orbiter rolls to a stop on the runway at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the mission is successfully completed, and the Turnaround Team goes into action.

After the standard safety checks, the Orbiter moves to the Orbiter Processing Fa-

Orbiter Columbia is lifted to a vertical position in the VAB before being attached to the SRB's and ET.

The Space Shattle Columbia makes a picture-perfect landing

cility. Here, the Shuttle is prepared for its next mission by a group of highly trained scientists and technicians. Inspectors thoroughly recheck and inspect the craft before declaring it flightworthy. After all horizontal payloads are installed the Shuttle is transferred to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). There the 105 foot tall Mate/Demate Device lifts the Shuttle into a vertical position, and all vertical payloads are installed.

NASA STS DATA

On a standard mission, the Orbiter will remain in orbit for 7 days, return to the Earth, land like an airplane, and be readied for another flight in 14 days. It can deploy and retrieve satellites and can place deep-space vehicles in their initial low-Earth orbit. The STS will also be used to transport the European Space Agency's Spacelab into orbit.

The Space Shuttle is comprised of the following three main units:

 Two solid rocket boosters (SRB's) which have a sea level thrust of 2,600,000 pounds each.

 The orbiter which is 121' long with a wing span of 79' weighs about 150,000 pounds without fuel. It has a payload bay 60' long and 15' in diameter.
 Payload capacity is 65,000 pounds.

• The external tank (ET) is 154' long and 28.6' in diameter. At lift-off the tank contains 1,550,000 pounds of liquid hydrogen and oxygen. These are in separate compartments of the tank and are fed to the orbiter's three main rocket engines which have a thrust of 470,000 pounds each. The tank is not reusable.

Maximum altitude of the Space Shuttle is 600 miles.

Photos and STS DATA Courtesy of NASA

Attaching the External Tank (ET) and Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB's) complete the Turnaround Operation.

Ready for launch, the Shuttle is transported to Pad 39A on a Transport Crawler that travels the Crawler Turnpike.

It's important that we applaud these "unsung heroes" for with their efforts the United States has a Space Program that's second to none!



Lift-Off on Pad 39-A.

EL ROCKET NEWS

Mary Roberts Robert Cannon . Rudl Mergelman	 	 Editor Asst. Editor
Kent Jodrie	 	 Graphic Design
Elonete Best		





Streamer Recovery Plastic
Nose Cone
Balsa
Nose Cone

Die-Cut Balsa Fins or Paper Parts

Plastic Fins or Fin Unit

Unless otherwise stated, all the model rocketry kits advertised in this magazine are hobby kits requiring assembly. Launch system, engines, glue, and finishing supplies are not included. Recommended for ages 10 to 12 years of age when flying model rockets. Prices subject to change without notice

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# WHY MODEL ROCKETRY?

Why participate in model rocketry? Because its fun!

Few activities offer as much excitement and pleasure. Building a rocket is fun. Getting everything "just right" brings out your best modeling skills.

Preparing the model rocket gives you a chance to make sure everything is ready. The completed rocket goes on the launch pad for connection to the electrical ignition system. Then Countdown...and Blastoff!

Your bird rises into the air, rapidly becoming a shrinking dot in the sky. The tiny pop as the ejection charge operates, and you have a 'chute! Now to recover your rocket after it has safely drifted back to the ground, ready for reprepping and flying again and again.

Safe model rocketry began over 25 years ago. Since the first flights, more than 200 million model rocket launches have taken place. Model rocketry is popular in all 50 states, and in many other countries. Model rocketry is a great parent-child activity, too. The building, finishing, and launching activities are more fun when done together.

For the serious rocketeer, the National Association of Rocketry offers a good monthly magazine, many contests, and the opportunity to form lasting friendships with others.

Model rocketry is a popular activity with Scout groups, from rocket launches with the Pack to a great theme for Explorer Posts. Model rocketry is a key element in the Space Exploration merit badge. Thousands of 4-H clubs are active in model rocketry.

About 20,000 teachers use model rocketry with their classes because it is a great way to learn science and math, and have fun at the same time.



Control System (requires 4 AA alkaline batteries) Includes 3 NAR safety-certified model rocket

 Includes 3 NAR safety-certified model rocket engines plus Solar electrical Igniters and recovery wadding
 Only \$19.95

Batteries, glue and finishing supplies - Not Included.



No one knows how many model rocket clubs exist. The variety of activities engaged in by these clubs include the usual business and planning meetings, frequent construction sessions where the more experienced builders help the novices, informal fun launches, contests, fund-raising activities, public demonstrations, and other programs. It is not uncommon for local clubs to receive TV and newspaper coverage. (See page 4 for article on how to form your own rocket club.)

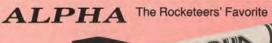
The best way to get started in model rocketry is to purchase a starter outfit. This provides you with your first model rocket kit plus a launch pad, an electrical ignition system, and several model rocket engines. The Estes Alpha III starter kit is an excellent choice.

Space Camp, sponsored by the Alabama Space and Science Center, will have 4,000 boys and girls building and launching two-stage rockets this year, plus doing many other exciting activities unique to the Space Age.

Model rocketry is safe, it can be very educational, it may develop an interest which leads to a lifetime career, it is a great parent-child and group activity, and it is fun.

See you at the launch pad!





Flights from 150 feet to over 1000 feet Easy to build Skill Level 1

Parachute recovery
Great flights with 1/2A6-2, A8-3 (1st Flt.), A8-5, B4-4, B6-4, B8-5, C6-5, or C6-7 engines.

#1225 Only \$4.50

MRN MAGAZINE SPRING '84

# MODEL ROCKETRY CLUBS

BY MICHAEL A. BANKS

Sharing knowledge and activities with other hobbyists is one of the most rewarding aspects of any hobby. This is especially true with model rocketry, which offers so much potential for competition and other group activities.



Since June of 1976, model rocket clubs have been conducting launches on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month for guests at NASA's Goddard Visitors Center in Greenbelt, MD.

## THE BENEFITS OF A CLUB

Perhaps the most important benefit of membership in a model rocketry club is the enthusiasm generated by contact with other rocketeers. Being able to compare notes on building and flying, sharing tips and advice, and participating in club launches and bull-sessions add a whole new dimension to the hobby for the individual rocketeer and for the club as a whole. Competition is a common club activity and serves as a test of skill and knowledge, in addition to being just plain fun!

Pooling of knowledge and resources by club members results in many benefits for rocketeers. Many rocketeers are "experts" in a particular area, and they are willing to share their knowledge with the club whether it's in the area of building and finishing or in more technical areas, such as aerodynamics or physics. Rocketeers can combine talents and material resources to undertake the design and construction of useful equipment such as multiple-pad launchers or sophisticated tracking devices. Group research projects impossible for individual rocketeers are practical for groups.

Model rocketry club members can participate in such activities as public demonstrations, field trips, and conventions.

Clubs are usually eligible for group discounts on model rocket kits and supplies from manufacturers and retailers. There are many less tangible, but equally valuable, benefits. Involvement in club activities improves "people" skills such as leadership, cooperation, and sportsmanship. There is camaraderie among model rocketeers that makes the effort of putting a club together very worthwhile.

## HOW TO GET STARTED

Before you go to work organizing a club, find out if there is already one in your area. Ask around at local hobby shops. Write

to the National Association of Rocketry (NAR), and ask for a listing of NAR Sections. If you're lucky, you'll find one nearby.

If you find that there is no model rocketry club in your area, the first thing you'll want to consider is how to get in contact with other rocketeers. Joining the NAR can be a big help, as this can put you in touch with rocketeers who live nearby, rocketeers who may want to form a club.

Hobby shops can be a good source of information about the model rocketeers in your town. You may run into other rocketeers shopping for supplies, and they may know of still other rocketeers who would be interested in forming a club. The hobby shop owners or managers may let you leave an information sheet or poster about your new club in the store, in addition to putting you in direct touch with rocketeers. If you make posters or information sheets to leave or display at hobby shops and community bulletin boards, make them eye-catching, but practical. An illustration or two from a kit package, or hand-drawn, will be enough to catch the attention of rocketeers. A simple heading, such as "Model Rocket Club" should appear in large letters, followed by your name and telephone number and/or address.



Members of the Starfire, NARHAMS, Wheaton, and NOVAAR rocket clubs launched rockets before an estimated 1000 spectators at the Darnestown, MD Aerial Show and Family Fun Day.

Potential members may also be found at local high schools and colleges. Check with school administrators and science teachers to see if the school has a science or model rocketry club. Many schools have one or both.

These methods, combined, will bring out all sorts of rocketeers within a few weeks.

Once you have brought together a sufficient number of rocketeers (five or more is a good start), you should have an organizational meeting. This can be held at someone's home, or at a local rec hall, civic center, church, etc. The purpose of this meeting should be to establish the name of the club, its areas of interest, how it will be organized, and to let the members get to know one another. You may wish to have a very formal organization, with a club constitution and bylaws, etc. It is best to work with as little formality as possible so that the club can concentrate on planning and carrying out its activities. If you become too preoccupied with the trappings of organization, you'll find that you have very little time and energy left for fun!

Most clubs require a President, who will act as the group's organizational leader (not a dictator!), and sometimes as the group



gler's Notch, VT. There a crew of M.I.T. rocketeers received launch assistance from the athletes who were presented with the models they launched and recovered. spokesperson. A Vice-President can assist the President. The club should also have a Treasurer who will collect dues, keep track of the club's treasury, disburse funds as necessary, and report to the membership on same. All of these officers should be elected by the membership, usually for one-year terms. You may also wish to have a club secretary, to keep track of the club's meetings and events, organize the club calendar, and to attend to any correspondence necessary. Often the Treasurer and Secretary jobs are combined. The officers of the club may also appoint committees to handle such things as establishing a club launch range, recruiting new members, obtaining, or constructing club equipment, etc. In general, the club membership should vote on any proposed activity, spending from the treasury, or projects.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The activities of a model rocketry club should center around club meetings and launches. Meetings can be held with any frequency, but one meeting per month is usually enough to handle any club business and planning. Club launches should occur more frequently—every week or two. Sometimes, club meetings can be combined with flying sessions. Once every month or two, you may wish to hold a club competition. If you're part of the NAR or in contact with other clubs in your region, you can sponsor a meet. Demonstration launches can be timed to coincide with club flying sessions, or can be scheduled separately.

Demonstration launches are, by the way, a good way to recruit new members. Demos, as they are called, can be arranged through local hobby shops. Talk with a hobby shop owner and ask if he would like to



stration launched model rockets before crowds totaling an

estimated 40,000.

sponsor a demo. You will usually find store owners very interested in doing this, and you'll receive a lot of support in the form of arranging a flying site, advertising, and so forth. If you get a go-ahead for a demo, be sure to plan the entire event carefully. Schedule twenty minutes to an hour of launch-and-commentary, and be sure to have plenty of club members on hand to answer questions from the spectators, in addition to handling range duties. Keep the program moving.

Inclement weather offers plenty of opportunity for members to get together for building sessions and mini-seminars on building techniques, theory, etc. These are also good times for planning activities, as well as sprucing up club launch equipment.



Members of Rough and Rugged Rocketeers Club in Denison, IA held a Launch-A-Thon and raised \$159.00 for the American Cancer Society. Photos - Troy Kluendor



If your club has more than a dozen members, you may want to put together a club newsletter. This can be a source of information for members who have missed meetings as well as providing a means for sharing knowledge and news about model rocketry. Newsletters can be as simple as a typewritten page or two, or more elaborate with illustrations. Often a newsletter can serve as tangible return for dues, and it

gives a club a more solid identity. Newsletters can be traded among clubs, too, and you'll find that other clubs' newsletters provide a wealth of information.



Pueblo, CO youngsters and Jaycees participated in several "Blast-off for Heart" launches, raising much needed funds for local heart associations.

Funding for a newsletter -- and other projects -- can come from members' dues, or from sponsors or donations. Sponsors for a club can be any type of church, civic, or youth group. A sponsor can be especially helpful if there are no adult members of the club. Sponsors can often obtain equipment and supplies for clubs, and can be helpful in helping a club find a regular launch site. Donations can be solicited from civic organizations or members of the business community if you make it clear that your club is open to all and is organized in support of a hobby activity. Many organizations are willing to support activities such as model rocketry, especially when a large project is involved, because of the benefits and good will generated. You will, by the way, find that it is much easier to get permission to use a public area such as a park or school ground as a launch site as a club than as an individual. Public or commercial buildings are often made available as meeting places for clubs at no charge. The major requirement that most business and civic organizations have for the use of facilities is that the activity be open to anyone in the community. Once you start looking, you'll find a number of potential sponsors and supporters for your club in your community, among them schools, banks, churches, and business and civic

Those are the basics of getting a model rocketry club up and running. Once you've gotten a few rocketeers together, you'll find that the club virtually runs itself, and that you'll never be at a loss for things to do or people to do them.

For more information on and ideas for model rocket clubs, check the following sources for additional ideas and assistance:

NAR Headquarters 182 Madison Drive Elizabethtown, PA - 15037

Estes Industries publications
#2815 Contest Guide
#2817 Club Guide
#2831 Projects in Model Rocketry



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Far-out flights with A8-3 (1st Flt.), B4-4, B6-4, C6-5 engines.

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ONLY \$6.00

1,000' Flights

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Features exclusive EAC iron-on emblem with four additional thrust bars available to rocketeers who earn them

Range box stickers

Official Estes Aerospace Club stationery

Model Rocketry Technical Manual



Engines, launch system, glue and finishing supplies - Not Included. Avg. Ship. Wt. 12 oz.

# PROJECT MERCURY AND FRIENDSHIP-7

Mercury -- winged messenger of the gods in Roman mythology. On December 17, 1958, NASA Administrator T. Keith Glennan announced that America's first manned space project would be named after this mythical fellow. Four months later, the world was introduced to the men selected to ride the Mercury spacecraft into space. The seven Mercury astronauts (as these space pilots were called) were: M. Scott Carpenter. L. Gordon Cooper, John H. Glenn, Jr., Virgil I. Grissom, Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B. Shepard, Jr., and Donald K. Slayton.

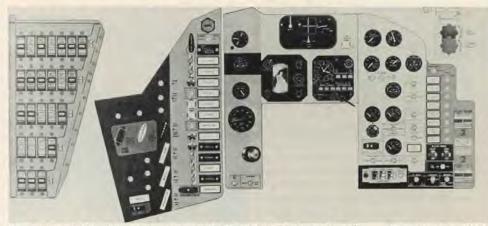
Project Mercury's goals were modest; to orbit and recover a manned satellite and to investigate man's capabilities in space. The spacecraft designed to accomplish these goals was modest as well. It was eleven feet long, six feet in diameter at its base, and weighed just under 3,000 pounds.



Cape Canaveral, Fla. - Close-up of Friendship spacecraft mated to Atlas, showing escape tower.

Within the confines of the tiny craft were the provisions -- food, air, water, and electrical power -- to sustain its sole occupant in space. Three parachutes (drogue, main, and rescue) were in the cylindrical upper portion of the bell-shaped capsule. The conical body comprised the crew compartment. The astronaut sat in a contour couch custom molded to fit his body. Directly in front of him was the instrument panel. Also inside the crew compartment were the life support, electrical power, and flight control systems. If it sounds crowded, it was.

An orbiting object has a tremendous amount of energy. When it begins its return to earth and enters the atmosphere at more than 17,000 miles per hour, atmospheric drag dissipates this energy. There's one major problem -- the energy doesn't just disappear. During atmospheric entry, the energy is transformed to heat. The Mercury



Cape Canaveral, Fla. - Mercury Atlas 6 spacecraft "Friendship 7" instrument panel. by an ablative heatshield over its base. Ablative heatshields char and vaporize during entry, carrying heat away from the spacecraft. This kept the Mercury spacecraft from incinerating during its descent.

Two different rockets lofted Mercury astronauts into space. For short "up and down" sub-orbital tests, the Army's Redstone missile was used. The Redstone could launch the Mercury on a 115-mile high ballistic arc. After two unmanned tests, one of which carried the chimpanzee Ham, the Mercury Redstone was pronounced ready to carry a human pilot.

On May 5, 1961, Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr. blasted-off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Fifteen minutes later Shepard's spacecraft, named Freedom-7, was bobbing in the Atlantic Ocean 302 miles downrange. You can recapture some of the excitement of America's first manned spaceflight by building and flying the Estes scale model of the Mercury-Redstone.

One more mission was made with the Mercury Redstone, Grissom's flight in Liberty Bell-7. Grissom's trip was a near duplicate of Shepard's launch, coast to 117 miles, five minutes of weightlessness, reentry, a parachute descent, and splashdown. Then, the unexpected happened. While Grissom was waiting to be picked up by the recovery helicopter, the explosive bolts which held the hatch detonated. Seawater poured in through the open hatch. Grissom nearly drowned while Liberty Bell-7 sank. Despite the near tragedy, the Mercury spacecraft had been proven in space twice and was ready to carry an American into orbit.

For orbital missions, the Air Force's Atlas intercontinental missile was the booster. Powered by three main and two vernier engines, with a combined thrust of 367,000 pounds, the stainless steel Atlas could place the Mercury into orbit. John Glenn was selected for this pioneer flight.

Glenn would not be the first person to orbit. Three weeks before Shepard's flight, Soviet Air Force Major Yuri Gagarin had been the first human in space. Gagarin completed 1 orbit in 89 minutes. Another Russian cosmonaut (as their astronauts are

Photos courtesy of NASA spacecraft was protected from entry heating called), Gherman Titov, orbited 17 times in August 1961.

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn, clad in a silver-colored space suit, climbed into his spacecraft, named Friendship-7. At 9:47 a.m. the Atlas roared to life and quickly climbed skyward. Five minutes later, Friendship-7 was in orbit.

Several minor problems were encountered, but, overall, the 3-orbit mission proceeded smoothly. Then, a light on a ground control console indicated that Friendship-7's heat shield was loose. If this were the case, the spacecraft and its occupant would be incinerated during reentry.

A solution to this potentially grave problem was found. The Mercury spacecraft's retrorockets were strapped to the heatshield; if the tub-shaped package was retained after retrofire, its straps would hold the shield in place. By the time the pack burned away, there would be enough aerodynamic pressure on the shield to keep it in place.

Near the end of his third orbit, Glenn fired the retrorockets. All three motors worked perfectly, and Friendship-7 began its descent. As entry heating increased, Glenn saw burning pieces of the retrorocket pack fly past his window. When he saw an especially large piece followed by one of the hold-down straps, he knew the pack was

The heatshield worked -- Friendship-7 survived the fireball, and finished its descent beneath a brightly-colored orange and white parachute. Glenn deployed the landing bag and felt a reassuring "clunk" as the bag and heatshield dropped into position. It turned out that a malfunction in the ground controllers' console caused the loose heatshield signal. Friendship-7 splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean and was recovered by the destroyer U.S.S. Noa.

Three more Mercury flights followed, the longest of which lasted 34 hours. Each flight was significant, and expanded our knowledge of man's capabilities in space. However, none could match the drama and emotion associated with America's first manned orbital space flight by John Glenn aboard Friendship-7.

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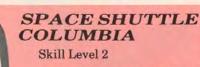
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Operational Stealth will have fantastic cruise altitude capability plus terrain-hugging capability to enhance its radar-invisible design 

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Stealth #1929 State-of-the-art technology for only \$5.95



Beautiful semi-scale model Launch with A8-3

(1st Flt.),

B4-4, B6-4,

B8-5, C6-5

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Space Shuttle Columbia #1385



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1/35th scale model of Mercury sub-orbital launch vehicle and capsule used to launch Alan Shepard Skill Level 5 Highly detailed, injection molded Mercurv capsule and tower return to earth via separate parachute Mercury Redstone #1921

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On May 5, 1961, Mercury-Redstone 3 lifted off at Cape Canaveral, Florida to carry astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr. on a sub-orbital flight. His flight lasted 15 minutes 22 seconds and carried him 116.5 miles up and 302.8 miles downrange. This was the first flight into space by an American.

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Orbiter detaches at apogee and glides back

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# TITAN II

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The Titan II, an improved version of the Titan I ICBM, was announced in June 1960. This version in the Titan family of missiles and payload launchers uses a blend of hydrazine and unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine (UDMH) as fuel and nitrogen tetraoxide (N2O4) as oxidizer. Neither substance requires refrigeration so they may be stored in the missile indefinitely. The Titan II was modified for use as the Gemini-capsule launch vehicle.

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Power-Pulse Launch Controller

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Includes: three model rocket engines, recovery wadding, and Solar Igniters

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List "Free" in the column for total price. These special free offers may not be used with any other special of-

fers, bonus coupons, or discounts.

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Large payload section on this sport flier

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B6-4, C6-5 engines

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B6-4 #1606 \$3.00 D12-3 #1666 \$4.95

Recovery Wadding #2274 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.45 per package Solar Igniters #2301 \_\_\_\_Package of six for \$1.40

# Spacey Riddles

- Q. What is the astronaut's favorite meal? A. Launch.
- Q. Which stars did the sheriff put in jail? A. Shooting stars.
- Q. Which astronaut wears the largest helmet?
- A. The one with the largest head.
- Q. What holds up the sun?
- A. Sun beams.

Jesse Frolek Lidgerwood, ND 58053

PAGE MRN MAGAZINE SPRING '84

Engines, launch system, glue

and finishing supplies - Not

Included in rocket kits. Avg. Ship. Wt. 12 oz.

# vord search

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T	1	S	Т	R	E	Α	М	E	R	G	E	1	K	F	T	0	R
	From Chris Wonglikowski, Midland, MI																

PLEASE send us stories, pictures, and information about you and your model rocket activities, club news, photos, articles, cartoons, riddles, games...anything you'd like to share with other rocketeers. We need your ideas, suggestions, and contributions!

If we use your material, we'll reward you with an Estes Merchandise Certificate. The dollar amount will be determined by the MRN editorial staff. A riddle could earn you a \$5.00 certificate, and an article could earn you \$25.00 - \$50.00 in Estes model rockets and supplies.

All contributions become the property of Estes Industries and cannot be returned. Please send your contributions to:

> Estes Industries MRN Magazine Penrose, CO 81240

Hope to hear from you soon!

From Chris Wenglikowski, Midland, MI

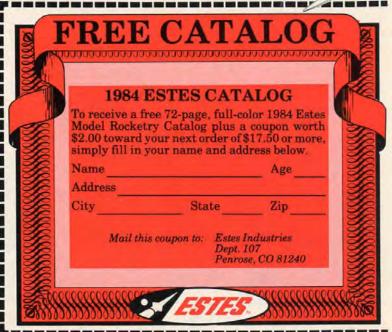
# The words in the puzzle are:

Altitude **Body Tubes** Balsa Drag **Ejection Engines** Fins Estes

Glide Igniters (2) Launch Pad Maxi Brutes Mini Brutes Mylar Nose Cone Parachute

Plastic Recovery Streamer Wadding Weight Wind Safety Tracking





From Dale Wang Jamaica Estate, NY



Answers to Word Search

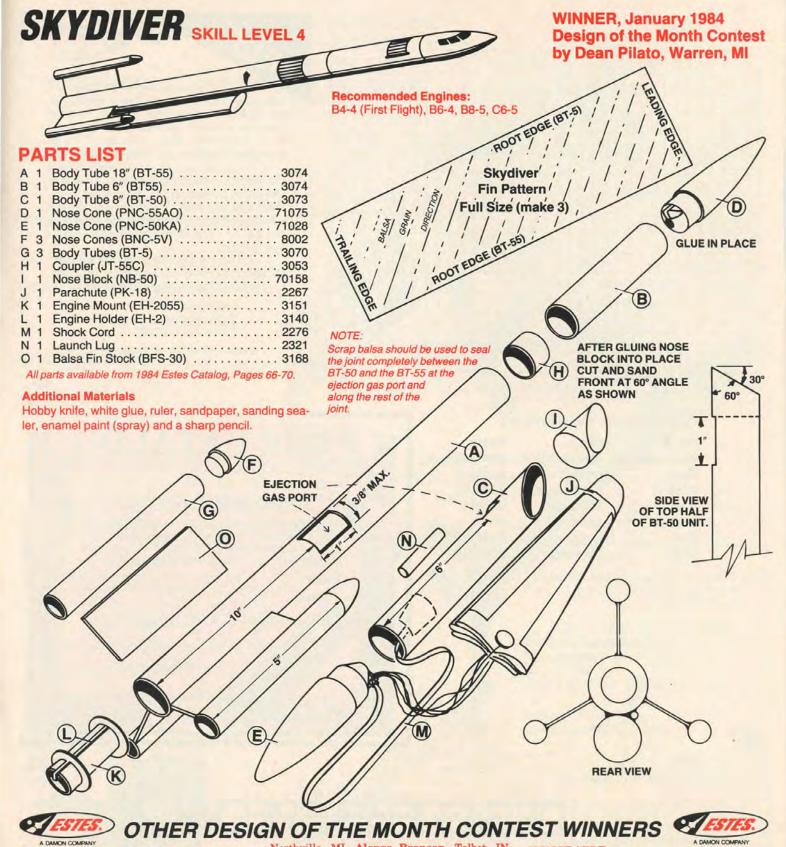


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December 1983 WINNERS: Peter W. Kodis, Mattapoisett, MA (Tomahawk 2). Louis J. Jiardina, Marion, IL (Pan Am Starliner). William W. Lynt, Jr., Racine, WI (Flammeus Currus). Wayne Lowing, Zebulon, NC (Aurora). William T. Hulstrunk, Rexford, NY (F-RED Fighter

Ham T. Hulstrunk, Rexford, NY (F-RED Fighter -Rocket Emergency Defense). Dean Pilato, Warren, MI (Navajo). Patrick Graham, Hunstville, AL (Starfinder). HONORABLE MENTION:
 James E. Fesmire, Northport, AL (IRV - Interplanetary Reconnaissance Vehicle). D. Blue.

Northville, MI. Alonzo Branson, Talbot, IN (Rocket Stand). Eric Fredrick, Oktoha, OK (Caesar). Malvin Whang, Walnut, CA (Avenger II). Chris Renzi. Radnor. PA (Seahawk). January 1984 WINNERS: Dean Pilato, Warren, MI (Skydiver). Doug & Dan Hollister, Fort Morgan, CO (The Pixie). William T. Hulstrunk, Rexford, NY (Buck Rogers Type Model Rocket Circa 1937). Billy Jacobs, Escondido, CA (Harpoon A.A.M.). Greg Carr, Ferndale, MI (D-Hypotenuse). Jeff Luppino, Hammondsport, NY (The Thunder).

HONORABLE

MENTION: Mark Sanders, Windham, OH (The Mayflower). Stephan Cossette, Rochester, NH (Stephan's Starlight). Zak Wellman, Santa Rosa, CA (Black Needle). James E. Fesmire, Northport, AL (Cosmotron Interstellar Probe). David Gary, Orillia, Ontario, Canada (Survivor). John Saskowski, Houston, TX (The Exploiter). Robby Frederick, Renton, WA (The Rebel). Mark Gilfillan, Hiawatha, KS. Wendy Jiardina, Marion, IL (The Firebird).

PAGE TO MRN MAGAZINE SPRING '84

# NARAM - 25

BY MARK BUNDICK



Troy Stratton of Redmond, VA uses silicone spray to lubricate the launch rod for his slide-wing rocket glider. This is one of many tricks he used to win several places at NARAM 25.

The nation's twenty-fifth national model rocket championships were held August 8-12, 1983 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Competitors battled one another in 12 events, including four classes of maximum altitude, three glider duration, two other duration, and two judging events. Despite some terrific thunderstorms and the local fire ant population, the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) crowned its new national champions after five days filled with rocket flying.

While the week's flying had many good flights, a few captured everyone's at-



Quang Pho of NOVAAR attaches his boost glider to the launch rod.

tention. Jim Zingler (Tomah, WI) set a new national record, boosting his egglofter to an astounding 932 meters (3,057 feet). The Beedrin-Langfid Team (New City, NY) flew a 1/10 scale model of the Nike-Tomahawk sounding rocket complete with a working launcher complex and elaborate bolt detailing, to first place in Super Scale. Finally, in Predicted Altitude, the top four finishers in the C Division (18 plus years old) all used the Estes Big Bertha Kit!



NARAM competitors were treated to tours of the Johnson Space Center facilities personally conducted by Jim Poindexter of NASA after contest flying ended on Friday. Here they view the Space Shuttle Flight Simulator.

Since the contest was held at the Johnson Space Center, the contestants were treated to a variety of special events. Several NAR members took the time to measure and photograph the Saturn, Little Joe, and Mercury Redstone display vehicles for future scale model events. Major Jerry Ross, a Space Shuttle pilot, presented films of the first six missions and spent a lively evening answering questions about the Shuttle and its capabilities. He was followed by Dr. Wendell Nidell with a lecture and slide show about recent planetary missions. NASA also opened several areas for special tours, including the Shuttle simulators and a Canadarm training facility.

Friday's awards banquet saw the presentation of the National Championship Awards: A Division (15 years or less) - Mark Schmitt, Glen Ellyn, IL; B Division (16-18) - Ken Mizoi, Spring Valley, NY; C Division (18 plus) - Al Neinast, Tomah, WI; Teams - Beedrin-Langfid Team, New City, NY; Sec-



Richmond, VA resident Troy Stratton receives congratulations for one of his many event places from Vern Estes. At right is NAR President Pat Miller.

tion - PULSAR, New City, NY. The nation's highest model rocket award, the Howard Galloway Spacemodeling Award, was presented by NAR President Pat Miller to Vernon Estes, G. Harry Stine, and Orville Carlisle. These three men are recognized worldwide as the founding fathers of the hobby of model rocketry.

NARAM-25 was five days of model rocket excitement. There were great flights, new friendships, and lots of fun for all. To join the fun of NARAM's to come, write NAR Headquarters, 182 Madison Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037. Don't miss out on the excitement of model rocketry's Super Bowl!

Mark "Bunny" Bundick has been a model rocketeer for 18 years. Currently serving as the NAR Vice-President, he is a former National Champion and has served as Chairman of the NAR Contest Board.



For about the billionth time in a row, New Jersey's Pulsar section captured the National Club Championship.

# DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

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For more information and a membership application write: NAR Headquarters, Dept. E14, 182 Madison Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037

# TACE Zermacroyd

Ronald G. Mariano Las Vegas, NV

Age 17

Age 15

Age 17



Ronald G. Mariano

Duroon

Ted Reber Ebensburg, PA

Acroya

John Martello Orlando, FL

PDC-1 or "Oz"

T.C. Stelle Ft Wayne, IN T'Rchylerr

Michael Pracht N. Tazewell, VA

Verde

Jeff Lake Age 18 Ft. Madison, IA

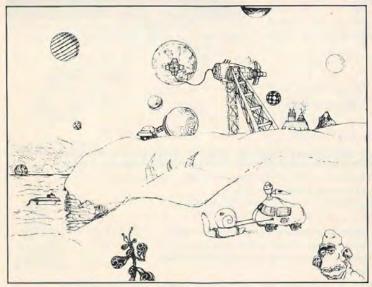
Bwabberthag

Tom Paolini Cincinnati, OH

Age 18

Age 9

Age 16



Bwabberthag

Tom Paolini







Acroya

John Martello

Jeremiah Jenner Prattsburg, NY

**Darren Haines** Fairacres, NM

Christopher Handzlik Olathe, KS

Paul Fathauer Danville, IL

Dana Proctor Beaver Falls, PA

**Brendan Patton** McMinnville, OR

**Keith D. Jennings Detroit MI** 

Len Loranger Chelmsford, MA

Joseph LaVigne Redondo Beach, CA

Scott Francek Lapeer, MI

**Ocella** Age 18

Quabar 13

Crystallia 14

Quartz 12

Ozon

Omega Cygni 13

Quespe 18

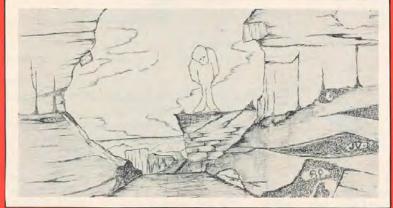
Vega 16

Taranas Kwurk 24 Rakis

Phobus



Ocella



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Joseph La Vigne



Vega



Christopher Handzlik Crystallia

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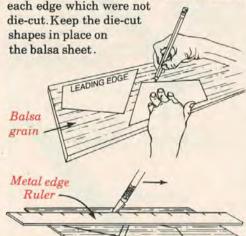
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# MODEL ROCKET CONSTRUCTION TIPS

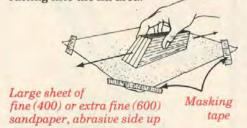
Fins are the in-flight guidance systems for your rockets. Make them the right size, finish them smoothly, mount them straight, and attach them securely.

Sheet of cardboard from a box

Carefully cut out the fins, even if they are die-cut. Use a sharp, slender knife to cut exactly along the die-cut lines. Hold the knife vertically so that the blade cuts straight all the way through the balsa sheet. Make several light cuts rather than one hard cut if the balsa is very hard or if the diecutting is not complete. Be especially careful when cutting through the small sections on



When you have to mark and cut your own fins, be very careful to keep the leading edge of the fin shape parallel to the grain of the balsa. Hold the pattern securely in place, possibly with pins, when marking the fins. Hold the knife firmly and vertical to the balsa when cutting. Use a straight metal edge, as the metal edge on a ruler, when cutting out the fins. Place the ruler over the balsa so that the metal edge keeps you from cutting into the fin area.



When you have two or more fins of the same size and shape, stack them carefully, then sand the four edges of the stack on a large sheet of fine sandpaper placed face up on a smooth work surface. This makes sure that all fins are exactly the same size and shape. The stack must be held firmly as this is being done.

Sand both sides of each fin gently and Masking to make the surface smooth. Symbol for rounded Symbol for square edge edge

To improve the flight performance of the rocket, round all edges of each fin except the root edge. This simple procedure will in-

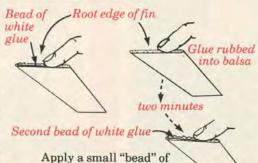
Leading edge

crease the height your rocket can reach by reducing the drag created by the fins. Always keep root

edge square If you want to further improve the flight performance of your rocket by further

reducing drag, sand each fin to a better aerodynamic shape. Two suggested shapes are shown.

Body tube Fin not properly aligned. Reposition fin before glue dries The fins must be mounted exactly straight along the body tube. Failure to mount the fins parallel to the body tube will result in less height per flight, and possibly erratic or unstable flight.



white glue to the root edge of

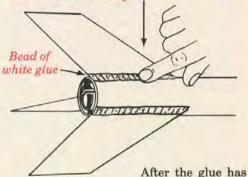
the fin. Rub firmly to force

some of this glue into the ends of the tiny fibers in the balsa. This provides tiny "anchors" for the glue to bond it tightly to the balsa when the glue is dry. After this first layer of glue which you rubbed in has had about two minutes to dry, apply another bead of glue to the root edge. Allow this layer to stand for about thirty seconds, then gently but firmly press the root edge of the fin into position on the body tube. Hold the fin carefully in position for about one minute. Take your hand away. Carefully watch the fin. If the fin starts to move, carefully reposition it and hold it in place until

> the glue is dry enough to support it in place.

Recheck the position of the fin after the glue has had about five minutes to dry. Reposition the fin if necessary.

Reenforcement layer rubbed into joint and onto balsa and body tube



thoroughly dried (the white color is gone, and the glue is clear), apply a reenforcement layer of glue to all balsa-balsa and balsa-cardboard joints. Rub this layer of glue up onto the fin on all sides and rub the glue onto the body tube. This thin film of glue will dry, turn clear, and shrink until it is virtually invisible. This thin layer of glue will provide a strong bond holding the fin in place, even when the fin receives a fairly strong force trying to move it or detach it.

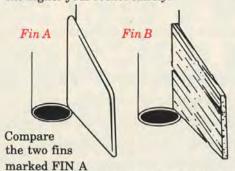
Never launch a rocket until all of the glue on it is completely dry.

Carefully draw the fin alignment lines exactly in position. These lines must be parallel to the long axis of the body tube unless the fins require a different alignment.

After the fin alignment lines are placed on the body tube, lightly sand the body tube where the fins will be placed. This removes part of the varnish coating on the body tube and slightly roughens the body tube at these places. This permits the glue to better hold the fins in position.

## SANDING & SEALING

The smoother your fins and nose cone, the higher your rocket can fly.



and FIN B. Which one will produce more drag? Which one will waste more of the energy released by your model rocket engine through turbulence and drag? Those are

easy questions--FIN B!

How can you avoid the high-drag, altitude-wasting fins? Careful shaping of the fins, and lots of sanding and sanding sealer. Your rocket's fins will never be any better than they are when you first paint your rocket. Make the fins right before the rocket is painted, and they will provide long and satisfactory service, as well as look classy on



far enough ahead, you

can make excellent fins before they are attached to the rocket. Cut out the fins, then carefully shape them to the aerodynamic shape you want. Then smooth them very

Todd Rosenthal

Longmeadow, MA

carefully with extra-fine sandpaper. Apply a coating of sanding sealer using a fairly wide brush to everything except the root edge and the balsa within 1/4 inch of the root edge. Smooth the sanding sealer over the fin. CAUTION: Work in a well-ventilated area. The fumes from sanding sealer are harmful, so always work in an area where the fumes will be rapidly blown away.

Let the sanding sealer dry on the fins. Then again carefully sand the fins with extra-fine sandpaper till they are smooth. This will require sanding off part of the sealer coat you just applied. Once the fins look and feel smooth, again apply sanding sealer. Let this sanding sealer coat dry. Again smooth the fins with extra-fine sandpaper. The fins may, or may not, need another coat of sanding sealer and a sanding to look and feel perfectly smooth. Also, this layering of sanding sealer makes the fins stronger and better able to resist dents and breaks.

This method is actually easier and neater than sanding and sealing fins already on the rocket. Of course, either method works well.

Attach the fins after resanding the root edge to remove any sanding sealer from this area. Apply glue in the usual way to the fins root edge. Attach fins with a glue layer. After the glue is thoroughly dry, apply glue reenforcements to all joints. Rub the glue reenforcements well up onto the fins to cover all the balsa which was not sealed with FIN ALIGNMENT sanding sealer. If this area looks rough after GUIDE the glue has dried, gently sand it with a Perfect Fin piece of extra-fine sandpaper folded with the attachment grit side out.

Follow this same procedure with all balsa surfaces, including nose cones. If you don't make the balsa surfaces look good now, they never will!

MORE NEXT ISSUE!



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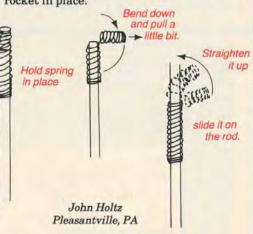
tool holder. You will need a saw, drill, white

glue, and 1" x 1" or 2" x 2" pine or any wood

Attach parachutes with a snap swivel to prevent tangled shroud lines. This will also make it easier to attach or remove the parachute from your rocket.

> Russell Howell, Jr. Pt. Pleasant, WV

Use a spring from a ball-point pen on your launch rod to keep your rocket from sitting on the blast deflector. You will need to bend the spring as illustrated so it will hold your rocket in place.





# 1984 ALIEN CREATURE CONTEST

AN INFINITE NUMBER OF PLANETS, MOONS AND OTHER POSSIBLE DWELLING PLACES FOR LIFE EXIST IN THE UNIVERSE. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT BEINGS MIGHT LIVE IN A DISTANT GALAXY?!

# ENTER THE 1984 ESTES LIEN CREATURE CONTEST!

Make a drawing and send it to us with the additional information outlined in the rules below. Your creation could win you a home computer, a refracting telescope, an AM/FM portable cassette player or a backpack with frame. We would like to see the strangest, most unusual far-out alien creature you can conceive. Really let your imagination run wild as this should be a super fun contest. Winning entries will be reproduced in a future issue of MRN MAGAZINE for all to see.

# Win One of These Exciting Prizes!!

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# RULES

- 1. You may enter as many times as you like.
- For reproduction purposes, your drawing should be made with black ink, magic markers, tempera, oil paints, or crayons.
- 3. In addition to a drawing of your creature, tell us his name, where he is from, what his planet is like and other characteristics such as size, intelligence, physical makeup, life style, and diet. This information should be interesting but not too lengthy.
- Employees of Estes Industries or members of their immediate families are not eligible.
- Entries will be judged for creativity, uniqueness, neatness, completeness, and originality. It really should be fun.
- Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and age with each entry.
- 7. Decision of the judges is final.
- All entries become the property of Estes Industries and cannot be returned.
- 9. Deadline for receipt of entries is July 15, 1984.
- 10. Mail entries to: Estes Industries

Alien Creature Contest Penrose, CO 81240

Send as Many Entries as You Like



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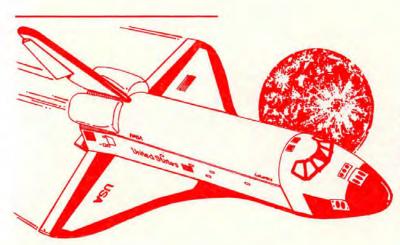
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. My three favorite types of model rockets are	RC Airplanes/ Kits Pre-Assembled	STREET.
Single Stage Scale Model Bonst Glider	U-Control Airplanes/ Kits Pre-Assembled Solar Kits Construction Sets	CITY
Sport Flier Futuristic Design Maxi-Brute	Slot Racing HO Scale 1/32nd, Scale	STATEOept, 50N
Mini-Brute	Other—	A